

the next year he was playing for Single A team the Peoria Chiefs where he was voted league Most Valuable Player. Pujols progressed quickly through the ranks of the St. Louis farm system and on to the major leagues.

The 2005 season saw Pujols establish career highs in walks and stolen bases while leading the St. Louis Cardinals in almost every offensive category. He finished with a .330 batting average, a .430 on-base percentage, and a .609 slugging percentage, 41 home runs, a grand slam, 117 RBIs, 97 walks and 16 stolen bases. The Cardinals were eliminated during the National League championship series, but only after Pujols hit a memorable home run in game five, a two-out, three-run blast in the top of the ninth inning off Houston Astro closer Brad Lidge. After the season, Pujols received his first National League Most Valuable Player award which underscored his critical role in keeping the injury-plagued Cardinals on track throughout the season.

Pujols should be commended for his work on the baseball field, for the foundation he and his wife, Diedre, have created and dedicated to the love, care and development of people with Downs Syndrome and their families, and for helping the poor in the Dominican Republic. For those and other reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 626, a tremendous athlete, but an even more tremendous humanitarian.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. I have no further speakers on this side, Mr. Speaker, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. It is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to that great St. Louis Cardinal fan and the sponsor of this legislation, Representative CARNAHAN from Missouri.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 626, congratulating Albert Pujols of the St. Louis Cardinals on being named the Most Valuable Player in the National League for the 2005 Major League Baseball season.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, we recently passed a companion resolution, House Resolution 627, congratulating his teammate, Chris Carpenter, for winning the National League Cy Young Award. This marks the first time since 1968 that the Cardinals have won both an MVP and Cy Young Award in the same year.

Albert Pujols came to spring training in 2001 as a 13th round draft choice. Not only did he make the St. Louis Cardinals opening day roster that year, but he won a starting job and went on to win the National League Rookie of the Year Award.

The first 5 years of his career rank among the best in baseball history. He has a career .332 batting average, 201 home runs and 621 runs batted in.

He is the only player in the history of the major leagues to have a batting average higher than .300, hit 30 or more home runs, drive in 100 or more runs,

and score 100 or more runs in each of his first five seasons.

During the 2005 season, Albert Pujols led the Cardinals with a batting average of .330, 41 home runs, 117 runs batted in, and 16 stolen bases. He was a major factor in the Cardinals' 100-win season and run to the National League championship series.

Albert Pujols is truly a champion on and off the field. He and his wife, Diedre, have three children, a son named Albert, Jr., a daughter named Sophia and a daughter Isabella who has Downs Syndrome.

In 2005 they started the Pujols Family Foundations which is dedicated to the love, care and development of people with Downs Syndrome and also reaches out to impoverished families in the Dominican Republic, Albert's native country.

As a lifelong Cardinals fan and St. Louis resident, it is an absolute joy to watch Albert Pujols on and off the field. He embodies the true spirit of Cardinal Nation, and I offer my most sincere congratulations on all that he has accomplished thus far, and wish him the best in the future, including recovering from his recent injuries.

Mr. Speaker, I think the spirit that he brings to baseball and that has captured this country is also reflected in the numerous Members of this Congress, not just from St. Louis, not just from the State of Missouri, but from around the country and both sides of the aisle that joined in sponsoring this resolution of congratulations.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption and yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 626.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PASSPORT MONTH

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 327) supporting the goals and ideals of National Passport Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 327

Whereas, through international travel, Americans can individually play a major role towards improving foreign relations by building bridges and making connections with citizens of other countries;

Whereas interacting with the global community inspires Americans to reflect on the diverse multi-cultural background that has defined the United States as a great country of cooperation and progress;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad creates connections with the global

community, supporting goodwill throughout the world;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad promotes understanding and goodwill throughout the world, opening the doors to increased peace, tolerance, and acceptance;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad opens up a preponderance of educational opportunities and experiences for Americans of all ages;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad enables Americans to see first-hand the effect of the United States on the world, including the tremendous amount of humanitarian aid given by the United States through both public and private sectors;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad reminds Americans that they are members of a global family and gives them opportunities to mend rifts around the world;

Whereas fewer than 23 percent of Americans have passports, thereby limiting their ability to travel outside the United States;

Whereas the more Americans travel outside the United States, the more they will experience opportunities to increase their understanding of the world and the place of the United States in it;

Whereas the creation and support of a National Passport Month signals to Americans the important role they can play as ambassadors for the United States by serving as agents of understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect; and

Whereas travel publishers along with travel editors from the most prestigious media outlets in the United States, student travel organizations, and book sellers have designated September as "National Passport Month" to educate the public about the importance of having a passport and the positive impact international travel has on individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Passport Month; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today in the United States, fewer than 23 percent of Americans have an issued passport, meaning that millions of our citizens are unable to take advantage of the culturally enriching opportunities presented by international travel. International travel can help promote understanding, tolerance and mutual respect for other

cultures and traditions around the world.

National Passport Month would support the goal of encouraging and inspiring Americans to participate in the educational opportunities that having a passport can provide.

□ 2245

By opening the doors to the rewards of traveling beyond the borders and the equally important potential that we have to build bridges connecting cultures throughout the world, makes it extremely pertinent that we encourage especially the young and old to apply for past ports.

Mr. Speaker, recently it became necessary to have a passport to go into Mexico. Most Americans are not yet aware of that. I would particularly remind people listening tonight throughout the world and those who will read the official record of our proceedings here today that having a passport takes time. I would encourage people to have them before they intend to travel so that they are prepared for the quick trip from San Diego to Tijuana or the trip from here to Abu Dhabi.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will include for the record a statement from Representative BARBARA LEE, who is the sponsor of this resolution. Congresswoman BARBARA LEE could not be with us here today, though she sincerely wanted to be. In her absence, she asked me to give a few remarks on her behalf.

Congresswoman LEE would like to thank ranking member WAXMAN and the chairman of the Government Reform Committee, TOM DAVIS, along with the leadership on both sides of the aisle, for bringing this bill to the floor today. Representative LEE expresses her appreciation to the over 55 cosponsors of this bipartisan resolution for their support and she wants in particular to thank her Republican leader on the resolution, Congressman CHRIS SMITH from New Jersey, for his support.

This resolution is extremely straightforward and noncontroversial. It details and recognizes the value of international travel and requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, State localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses and other entities and the people of the United States to observe National Passport Month with appropriate ceremonies, programs and activities.

As the senior Democratic woman on the House International Relations Committee and a traveler herself, Congresswoman LEE truly understands and appreciates the value and importance of international travel. As Congresswoman LEE notes in her statement for the record, there is no substitute for the experience that you get from vis-

iting other countries. Travel changes the way we see the world. It broadens our horizons and deepens our appreciation for different countries and cultures. It also helps us to be more understanding, tolerant and to have respect for other cultures.

Not only does travel provide enriching opportunities for the individual, it can also have profound benefits to our Nation as a whole by allowing Americans to spread the message of freedom and democracy around the world. In addition, having a passport and traveling abroad enables Americans to see the American influence on the world firsthand, including the tremendous amount of humanitarian aid given by Americans throughout both the public and private sectors.

I agree with the Congresswoman, who states that Americans of all ages are our best ambassadors and we should promote policies that encourage them to travel, to forge connections with people from other countries, to foster mutual understanding and tolerance and to help open new doors to peace.

The timing of this resolution could not be more critical, because America needs a boost in foreign public opinion. When Lonely Planet, which is located in Representative LEE's district in Oakland, California, raised the idea of a National Passport Month, she immediately embraced it. In Representative LEE's statement for the record she notes how proud she was to introduce H. Res. 327 and to be part of the campaign to recognize the importance of international travel and how overwhelmed she was by the support she has received for the effort.

In April of this year, Lonely Planet presented her with over 5,000 petition signatures from people all over the country who support these efforts. This resolution has the support of a broad coalition of over 70 supporting travel organizations and associations. This includes corporations such as American Express and Yahoo and the State Department. In fact, Congresswoman LEE is submitting the letter of support from the State Department along with her statement today.

Representative LEE would like to thank all the supporters of the resolution, and notes that she looks forward to working with them to ensure that the White House issues the proclamation in ample time for the inaugural National Passport Month celebrations this September.

I, too, Mr. Speaker, would urge support for this resolution. And since we have had so many items on the agenda this evening coming out of Government Reform, I also want to simply state that it has indeed been a pleasure to work with the gentleman from California. I am not looking forward to another long session like this coming from Government Reform, but if it has to be, then I look forward to working with him.

I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, urge passage and thank the gentleman from Illinois. It is a pleasure working on the Committee on Government Reform. It is also a privilege serving on the International Relations Committee, in which public diplomacy has been a major initiative that Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS have been reaching out and trying to have done.

There is no better public diplomacy than for Americans to reach out to people, perhaps from their ancestry or simply from an area of interest, by visiting. So I too encourage all the Members to vote for this, to travel themselves and to be the diplomats in public diplomacy that we need so badly in this time of strife throughout the world.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 327, legislation I sponsored to support the goals, ideals and creation of National Passport month.

I want to thank my colleague Congressman DANNY DAVIS for managing the bill today and for his leadership on the Government Reform committee. I also want to thank the Ranking Member of the Committee, Congressman WAXMAN and the Chairman of the Committee, TOM DAVIS along with leadership on both sides of the aisle for bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to express my appreciation to the over 55 co-sponsors of this bipartisan resolution for their support, and want to especially thank my colleague and the Republican lead on this effort, Congressman CHRIS SMITH from New Jersey for his support.

This resolution is extremely straightforward and noncontroversial. It details and recognizes the value of international travel and requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Passport month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

The purpose of National Passport Month is to create a time to educate the public about the incredible opportunities available to those who obtain passports as well as the positive impact international travel has on individuals and the global community.

Today, less than 23 percent of Americans have a passport, thereby limiting their ability to travel outside the United States. As a result, millions of Americans are unable to take advantage of the enriching opportunities presented by international travel.

As the Senior Democratic woman on the House International Relations Committee, and a traveler myself, I understand and appreciate the value and importance of international travel.

There really is no substitute for the experience that you get from visiting other countries, from meeting the people, tasting the food and interacting with the culture. It changes the way we see the world. It broadens our horizons and deepens our appreciation for different countries and cultures and our shared humanity. It also helps us learn understanding, tolerance and mutual respect for other cultures.

Not only does travel provide enriching opportunities for the individual, it can also have

profound benefits to our Nation as a whole by allowing Americans to spread the message of freedom and democracy around the world. In addition, having a passport and traveling abroad enables Americans to see the American influence on the world first-hand, including the tremendous amount of humanitarian aid given by Americans through both the public and private sectors.

Americans of all ages are our best ambassadors and we should promote policies that encourage them to travel, to forge connections with people from other countries, to foster mutual understanding and tolerance and to help open new doors to peace.

The timing of our efforts could not be more critical. I think we can all recognize that America needs a boost in foreign public opinion and I am confident that connections made with American travelers can and will make a huge difference improving our image abroad.

So, for all of these reasons, when Lonely Planet, which I am pleased to say is located in Oakland in my district, first raised the idea of a national passport month, I immediately embraced it.

I am proud to have introduced H. Res. 327 and to be part of this campaign to recognize the importance of international travel, and I am overwhelmed by the support we have received. In April of this year, Lonely Planet presented me with over 5,000 petition signatures from people all over the country who support these efforts. And this campaign has the support of a broad coalition of over 70 supporting travel organizations and associations to corporations like American Express and Yahoo.

Moreover, the U.S. Department of State is on record in supporting September as National Passport month. I want to read a quote from its letter: "Since September is a time of the year when schools are re-opening and many students are considering travel or study abroad, it is a highly appropriate month to promote public awareness of the value of the U.S. passport. The Department shares your appreciation of the U.S. passport and supports your resolution."

So, today I'm pleased the House will go on record in support of proclaiming September National Passport Month.

Again, I want to thank all the supporters of this resolution and I look forward to working with you all to ensure the White House issues this proclamation in ample time for the inaugural National Passport month celebrations this September.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BUREAU OF
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, August 29, 2005.

DEAR Ms. LEE: Thank you for your letter addressed to Secretary Rice regarding H. Res. 327, a resolution to encourage President Bush to proclaim September National Passport Month. It is a pleasure to acknowledge your comments on the positive impact international travel has on individuals and the global community. We, too, recognize the value of travel as a means of enhancing international understanding.

Even though the State Department will issue more than 10 million passports this fiscal year, still less than 23 percent of Americans have a passport. The Department strives to make the process of issuing passports to U.S. citizens as efficient and as courteous as possible. Since September is a time of the year when schools are re-opening and many students are considering travel or study abroad, it is a highly appropriate

month to promote public awareness of the value of the U.S. passport. The Department shares your appreciation of the U.S. passport and supports your resolution.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW A. REYNOLDS,
Acting Assistant Secretary.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 327.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS ARE FIGHTING FOR BORDER SECURITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans understand that in this post-9/11 world we cannot separate national security from border security. On that fateful day back in 2001, we learned that the "business as usual" mentality simply does not work anymore. What our Nation needs is a clear immigration enforcement strategy that reduces the threat posed by those who are breaking our laws.

It is estimated that roughly 12 million illegal aliens now reside in the United States. Each year the number grows by another 700,000. Yet we are arresting the same number of illegal aliens as we did back in 1977, despite the fact we have many more illegals coming in than we used to.

Obviously, something has to be done. That is why House Republicans voted to pass a major border security bill this past December. This bill strengthens our borders, implements employment eligibility verification systems, cracks down on those who knowingly hire illegals, empowers local law enforcement to enforce our immigration laws and expedites the swift deportation of illegal aliens.

This is something that has to be done and we cannot compromise on this. Our Nation's security is at risk, and nothing else is more important.

D-DAY AND THE YOUNG AMERICANS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the silent ocean roar now covers the battlefields on the shores of France.

They fought for a people they did not know in a place they had never been and consecrated the soil of freedom by the self-sacrifice of their own blood.

There are 9,386 Americans buried on the cliffs of Normandy, France. 1,557

are still missing 62 years later. They gave their youth so Europe could have a tomorrow. They came not to conquer, but to set a people free. That D-Day invasion of France was the beginning of the liberation of Europe.

Those that served that day jumped from the sky in the darkness, or went ashore in the face of massive gunfire. They were the young Americans that went to land in Normandy on June 6, 1944. They defeated the evil forces of the Axis and they did not come back until it was over over there.

History refers to those that died and those that lived as the Greatest Generation. They are our fathers and our grandfathers. They defended the honor of liberty and proved there is something worth fighting for, and there is something worth dying for. And that's just the way it is.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to bring attention to the problem of internally displaced persons, or IDPs in Nagorno-Karabakh in the Caucasus. The situation is disheartening because aid is needed and, unfortunately, the United Nations refuses to allow its organizations like UNHCR and UNICEF to operate in the country largely due to Azerbaijan's opposition.

Because internally displaced persons remain within the borders of their home country, primary responsibility for protecting and assisting them rests with their national authorities. However, I strongly believe there is also a responsibility that lies with the United States and the international community to bring rightful attention to this issue and consider ways to ease and eventually end the plight of these displaced individuals.

Mr. Speaker, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as the Soviet Union was collapsing the people of Nagorno-Karabakh made a peaceful request to reunite with Armenia, from which they were arbitrarily separated by Joseph Stalin in 1921.

□ 2300

Azerbaijan responded with a campaign of ethnic cleansing and full-scale military attack on Nagorno-Karabakh.

As a result of Azerbaijan's aggression, 30,000 people died, and hundreds of thousands fled the region. About 36,000 Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan and some 71,000 displaced ethnic Armenians now reside in Nagorno-Karabakh.